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Colbert Landfill Project

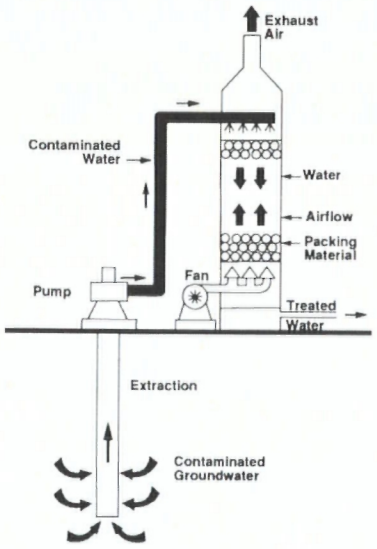
JUNE 1990

PHASE I WELL CONSTRUCTION ON SCHEDULE

Phase I of the Colbert Landfill Superfund Project is slightly ahead of schedule. Monitoring and pilot extraction well construction should be completed around the end of June, and the pilot treatment plant should be constructed by September.

MONITORING WELLS

As of May 22, 1990, a total of 28 monitoring wells at 16 locations have been constructed since Phase I field activities started in late August 1989. One additional monitoring well is under construction to further define contaminant migration in the Lower Sand and Gravel Aquifer on the west side of the landfill, and should be completed by early June.



Influent groundwater enters from the top, making its way down through honeycombed packing material (increasing its surface area), as air is forced up through the tower. The effluent is thus cleansed of its chemical contaminants.

PILOT WELLS

Three pilot extraction wells have been completed, one near the southeast corner of the landfill, one near the north landfill property boundary, and another near the intersection of Yale and Woolard Roads. One additional pilot extraction well will be constructed to the north or west of the landfill. Data collected from recently completed monitoring wells needs to be analyzed before selecting the exact location; this well should be completed by late June.

OTHER FIELD ACTIVITIES

In addition to well construction, a number of additional field activities have been completed over the last few months. These activities include conducting a geophysical survey to identify underground features near the landfill. Water levels were obtained from several domestic wells, which will be used to determine the direction of ground water flow. Ground water samples were collected for chemical analysis from monitoring wells and a few domestic wells to better define ground water contaminant distribution.

PILOT TREATMENT PLANT

The pilot treatment plant will consist of a portable air stripping tower approximately 40 feet tall and 1 to 3 feet in diameter. It will be operated 3 or 4 times, for one to two weeks at a time, during the Phase I pilot studies to obtain the data needed to design the final system. Negotiations to determine the location of the pilot treatment plant are underway.

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Repositories

North Spokane Library
East 44 Hawthorn Road
Spokane, WA 99218

Colbert Elementary School
East 4526 Green Bluff Road
Colbert, WA 99005

Washington State Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office
N. 4601 Monroe Street
Suite 100, Spokane, WA 99205

EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

For a copy of this Fact Sheet or if you need more information concerning the Colbert Landfill Cleanup Project write or call:

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(509) 456-3604

Mike Kuntz, Washington State Department of Ecology, Mail Stop PV-11, Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 438-3079
or 1-800-458-0920

Neil Thompson, EPA Region 10, HW-113, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 442-7177

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AIR STRIPPERS

The question, "What happens to the contaminants once they are released to the atmosphere from the air stripper?", is often asked. Contaminants that are transferred from the ground water to the air disperse with distance from the site. Additionally, sunlight has the ability to break down the volatile organic compounds present at the Colbert Landfill.

Computer models indicate that the levels of contaminants emitted from the pilot treatment plant should be negligable. Similarly, based on the model, emissions from the Phase II stripping towers are expected to be well below those that would pose a health risk to local residents, even for long term releases. However, air monitoring and additional analysis will be conducted during Phase I, and if this information indicates that the Phase II air emissions will be too high to be safe, the air emissions will receive additional treatment.

DOMESTIC WELL MONITORING

Monitoring of wells in the vicinity of the Colbert Landfill is being conducted to ensure the community has a healthy water supply. The program is also designed to monitor and identify any wells that may be contaminated so that alternative water can be supplied to these residences. This program is being conducted by Spokane County with assistance from the Colbert Landfill residential water well committee.

Spokane County has contracted with A&A Properties (Bruce Austin) to perform the sampling. Changes in the sampling procedures are currently in progress due to problems identified with the sampling program. A review of the past sampling procedures revealed areas that need to be improved to eliminate identified sampling problems. In addition, planned improvements in the field data logs (which tells how to sample each well) will greatly reduce the likelihood of errors.

The Domestic Well Monitoring Program is a very important part of the overall Colbert Landfill Cleanup Program. If you have any information to offer or would like more information about this program, please contact Spokane County.

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